

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus to denote the date and time in which recordings are taken comprising:
 5 a digital recording apparatus having a real-time clock that is powered by a main battery of the digital recording apparatus, wherein the real-time clock resets when the battery is removed; and
 a computer that reads media recorded by the digital recording apparatus and provides a date and time reference in which to relate the digital recording apparatus's real-time clock.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital recording apparatus may be one of a digital camera and a digital video recorder.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the digital recording apparatus marks a recording with a current value of the real-time clock.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the current value of the real-time clock is seconds since battery replacement.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the computer records the real-time clock's reading and the computer's current date and time when the digital recording apparatus docks to the computer.
- 20 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the computer calculates, for those recordings taken since battery replacement, the date and time that a recording was taken.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the computer calculates the date and time that a recording was taken, when the digital recording apparatus is undocked, by examining

the difference between the digital recording apparatus's real-time clock at the time a recording was taken and the real-time clock at the time of last docking.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the real-time clock has a range that is at least twice the maximum anticipated battery life of the digital recording apparatus.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein upon docking, the real-time clock is advanced to past the midpoint of the real-time clock's range to aid the computer in determining whether a recording was taken before or after battery replacement.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein algorithms are used for performing date and time calculations.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the real-time clock is capable of operating without an additional physical user interface.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the real-time clock is capable of operating without a backup battery.

13. A digital recording apparatus real-time clock system comprising a readable medium and a computer readable program code stored on the computer readable medium having instructions to: read a digital recording apparatus's real-time clock and read a computer's current date and time; read the computer's stored clock value and date and time from a previous docking; download a recording from the digital recording apparatus to the computer and read its clock value; determine if the recording's clock value is greater than one-half of the clock's range; calculate the recording's date and time relative to the computer's stored clock reading and date and time reading from the previous docking, if the recording's clock value is greater than one-half of the real-time clock's range; otherwise, calculate the recording's date and time relative to the real-time clock's reading

and the computer's current date and time reading;

set the real-time clock equal to one-half of the real-time clock's range if the real-time

clock reading is less than one-half of the real-time clock's range;

save the real-time clock's new value and the computer's current date and time as previous

docking values.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein instructions are provided to the digital recording apparatus to mark a recording with a current value of the real-time clock.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein instructions are provided to the computer to record the real-time clock's reading and the computer's current date and time when the digital recording apparatus docks to the computer.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein instructions are provided to the computer to calculate the date and time that a recording was taken, when the digital recording apparatus is undocked, by examining the difference between the digital recording apparatus's real-time clock at the time a recording was taken and the real-time clock at the time of last docking.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the real-time clock has a range that is at least twice the maximum anticipated battery life of the digital recording apparatus.

18. The system of claim 13, wherein the digital recording apparatus may be one of a digital camera and a digital video recorder.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the real-time clock is powered by a main battery of the digital recording apparatus.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the real-time clock resets automatically when the battery of the digital recording apparatus is removed.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein the real-time clock does not require a physical user interface or a backup battery for operation.

22. A method of denoting the date and time in which recordings are taken comprising:
 reading a digital recording apparatus's real-time clock and reading a computer's current date and time;
 5 reading the computer's stored clock value and date and time from a previous docking;
 downloading a recording from the digital recording apparatus to the computer and reading its clock value;
 determining if the recording's clock value is greater than one-half of the clock's range;
 calculating the recording's date and time relative to the computer's stored clock reading and date and time reading from the previous docking, if the recording's clock value is greater
 10 than one-half of the real-time clock's range;
 otherwise, calculating the recording's date and time relative to the real-time clock's reading and the computer's current date and time reading;
 setting the real-time clock equal to one-half of the real-time clock's range if the real-time clock reading is less than one-half of the real-time clock's range;
 saving the real-time clock's new value and the computer's current date
 15 and time as previous docking values.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the digital recording apparatus may be one of a digital camera and a digital video recorder.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the real-time clock is powered by a main battery of the digital recording apparatus.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the real-time clock resets when the digital recording apparatus battery is removed.

